



EPA STARTING SOIL REMOVALS THIS SPRING

Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 (VB/I-70)

Denver, Colorado

Visit our information

centers to review VB/I-70
site records at:

Cross Community Coalition
2332 East 46th Street
Denver, CO

Valdez-Perry Library
4690 Vine Street
Denver, CO

Ford Warren Library
2835 High Street
Denver, CO

EPA Records Center
999 18th Street
3rd floor
Denver, CO

March 2005

What is EPA doing?

In February 2005, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin removing contaminated soils from yards of the remainder of homes that require a cleanup. If your yard still has not been sampled, call EPA today. This may be the last year of this cleanup project, and your last chance to have your soil tested.

EPA is removing soils in *some yards* within the VB/I-70 Superfund site because these yards have too much lead and/or arsenic in the soil. EPA is replacing these yards with new soil and re-landscaping. EPA is also funding a health program for all area residents.

Not all yards need to be cleaned up. It is very common for one yard to have high levels of lead and/or arsenic and the yard next door to have very low levels. We believe this is at least partly because of the source of the contamination and the history of the property. Information indicates that one of the sources of arsenic in the yards may be from lawn care products that were readily available for use in the 1950s and 1060s.

EPA has been investigating lead and arsenic in residential soils within the VB/I-70 Superfund boundaries since 1998. VB/I-70 is comprised of neighborhoods in northeast Denver: Elyria, Swansea, Cole, Clayton, southwest Globeville and a small section of Curtis Park. The site includes more than 4,000 homes. So far, 508 yards have been cleaned up out of an estimated 800 requiring cleanup.

If your yard needs to be cleaned up this year, EPA will contact you by mail in advance and will set up an appointment to discuss a cleanup plan for your yard. The cleanup will occur after you agree with the cleanup plan. If you do not know if your yard needs a cleanup, please contact Pat Courtney at 303-312-6631, Jennifer Chergo at 303-312-6601 or call our construction office at 303-487-0377.

Soil Sampling begins this Spring 2005

This is your *last chance* to have your soil sampled! EPA will sample soil this spring and summer. If your yard has not been sampled, or you are a new home owner and want to find out if your property has been sampled, please contact Pat Courtney at 303-312-6631 or Jennifer Chergo at 303-312-6631.

What Is The Community Health Program?

The Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 Community Health Program provides health education and services to identify and respond to children that may be exposed to lead and arsenic. The program focuses on potential exposures to lead and arsenic in soil, but also helps residents prevent exposure to lead from all sources, including lead-based paint. In addition, the Community Health Program provides education on the medical condition known as soil pica. A child with soil pica craves and eats soil and is at a higher risk for lead and arsenic poisoning. The Community Health Program includes free testing for lead and arsenic poisoning. Pregnant women and families with children *under* the age of six are offered testing at community sites during the spring, summer, and early fall. The Community Health Program provides response for any resident identified with a high level of lead or arsenic, including referral to medical services and intervention to prevent further exposure.

The Community Health Program hires and trains neighborhood residents to be Community Health Workers, also known as Promotores. Beginning in February 2005, Community Health Workers will go door-to-door in the VB/I-70 neighborhoods to provide residents with information on lead and arsenic, as well as community testing clinics. Community Health Workers will also attend community events to provide health education and encourage residents to participate in testing. The Community Health Program is administered by the Department of Environmental Health, City of Denver. For more information, please call 303-865-5452.

Give Us A Call!

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EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
303-312-6631

Jennifer Chergo
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
303-312-6601

Derek Boer, CO Dept. of Public Health and Environment
Community Involvement Coordinator
303-692-3329

Spanish Speaking Hotline
303-312-6384
Se habla espanol

Web site:
<http://www.epa.gov/region08/superfund/sites/co/vbi70.html>